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NO. 3201 P. 1/16

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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: JUNE 5, 2006

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING  
THIS TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET): 16

OUR REFERENCE: 226997

FROM: JOHN KILYK, JR.  
REGISTRATION No. 30,763

DIRECT LINE: (312) 616-5665

TO: MAIL STOP Amendment  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

FACSIMILE NUMBER: (571) 273-8300

IN RE APPLN. OF: Chou et al.  
APPLICATION NO. 10/043,534  
FILED: January 10, 2002  
TC/AU: 1765  
EXAMINER: Lan Vinh  
DOCKET No.: 00044X215193 (LVM Reference No. 215193)

**ATTACHED PLEASE FIND THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

- FORM PTO-1083 (1 PAGE, IN DUPLICATE)
- REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION (9 PAGES)
- "BUFFERS (CHEMISTRY)" IN MCGRAW-HILL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 6TH ED., VOL. 3, PP. 91-92 (1987) (4 PAGES)

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NO. 3201 P. 2/16

FORM PTO-1083

JUN 05 2006

**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No. 00044X215193  
LVM Reference No. 215193  
Date: June 5, 2006

In re Application of: Chou et al.  
Application No. 10/043,534  
Filed: January 10, 2002

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a reply to office action in the subject application.

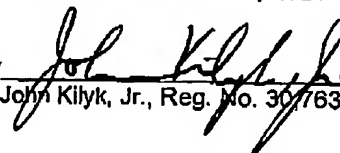
- ☒ Small entity status is claimed for this application under 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Petition for an extension of time for the period noted below, as well as for any additional period necessary to render the present submission timely. Please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 for the appropriate petition fee.
- ☒ Other: "Buffers (chemistry)" in McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 6th ed., vol. 3, pp. 91-92 (1987)
- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the total amount indicated below. A duplicate copy of this transmittal sheet is enclosed herewith.

|   |                                      |       |                                    |                      | SMALL ENTITY |                 | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| TIME EXTENSION PETITION FEE                   |                                      |       | none                               |                      | \$ 0.00      |                 | \$ 0.00                   |                 |
| subtract time extension fee previously paid   |                                      |       | none                               |                      | (\$ 0.00)    |                 | (\$ 0.00)                 |                 |
|   |                                      |       |                                    |                      |              |                 |                           |                 |
| CLAIM FEE                                     | CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT     |       | HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT | RATE         | ADD'L CLAIM FEE | RATE                      | ADD'L CLAIM FEE |
| TOTAL   | 24                                   | MINUS | 27                                 | = 0                  | x 25 =       | \$0.00          | x 50 =                    | \$0.00          |
| INDEPENDENT                                   | 1                                    | MINUS | 3                                  | = 0                  | x 100 =      | \$0.00          | x 200 =                   | \$0.00          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE CLAIM |       |                                    |                      | + 180 =      | \$0.00          | + 360 =                   | \$0.00          |
|   |                                      |       |                                    |                      |              |                 |                           |                 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT |                                      |       |                                    |                      | TOTAL        | \$0.00          | TOTAL                     | \$0.00          |

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.

By   
John Kilyk, Jr., Reg. No. 307763

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Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900  
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(312) 616-5600 (telephone)  
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FORM PTO-1083

**PATENT**

Attorney Docket No. 00044X215193

LVM Reference No. 215193

Date: June 5, 2006

In re Application of: Chou et al.  
 Application No. 10/043,534  
 Filed: January 10, 2002

Mail Stop Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a reply to office action in the subject application.

- ☒ Small entity status is claimed for this application under 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Petition for an extension of time for the period noted below, as well as for any additional period necessary to render the present submission timely. Please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 for the appropriate petition fee.
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|   |   |       |   |                            | SMALL ENTITY |                       | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |                       |
|---|---|-------|---|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| TIME EXTENSION PETITION FEE                   |   |       | none  |                            | \$ 0.00      |                       | \$ 0.00                   |                       |
| subtract time extension fee previously paid   |   |       | none  |                            | (\$ 0.00)    |                       | (\$ 0.00)                 |                       |
|   |   |       |   |                            |              |                       |                           |                       |
| CLAIM FEE                                     | CLAIMS<br>REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT |       | HIGHEST<br>NUMBER<br>PREVIOUSLY<br>PAID FOR | EXTRA<br>CLAIMS<br>PRESENT | RATE         | ADD'L<br>CLAIM<br>FEE | RATE                      | ADD'L<br>CLAIM<br>FEE |
| TOTAL   | 24  | MINUS | 27  | = 0                        | x 25 =       | \$0.00                | x 50 =                    | \$0.00                |
| INDEPENDENT                                   | 1   | MINUS | 3   | = 0                        | x 100 =      | \$0.00                | x 200 =                   | \$0.00                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE CLAIM      |       |   |                            | + 180 =      | \$0.00                | + 360 =                   | \$0.00                |
|   |   |       |   |                            |              |                       |                           |                       |
| TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT |   |       |   |                            | TOTAL        | \$0.00                | TOTAL                     | \$0.00                |

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Respectfully submitted,

LEYDIG, VOIT &amp; MAYER, LTD.

Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.  
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 180 North Stetson Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780  
 (312) 616-5600 (telephone)  
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By   
 John Kilyk, Jr., Reg. No. 30,763

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/043,534

Applicant: Chou et al.

Filed: January 10, 2002

TC/AU: 1765

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Docket No.: 00044X215193 (LVM Reference No. 215193)

Customer No.: 29050

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated March 30, 2006, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

| <b>MAILING/TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8 OR 1.10</b>  |                 |             |              |
|---|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| I hereby certify that this document and all accompanying documents are, on the date indicated below, being <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at fax number: (571) 273-8300. |                 |             |              |
| <i>Name (Print/Type)</i>  | John Kilyk, Jr. |             |              |
| <i>Signature</i>  |                 | <i>Date</i> | June 5, 2006 |